

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We were pleased to learn that you will visit Japan and South Korea as part of a planned trip to Asia later this month. Given recent developments in the region, we hope you will also consider adding another stop to your itinerary: Taiwan.

As someone who was serving in Congress when then-President Carter began the process of establishing formal diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China in 1978, you know this decision was predicated on Beijing's commitment to resolve its differences with Taiwan peacefully. Yet China's Communist Party leaders continue to violate this assurance with impunity, most recently through provocative People's Liberation Army aircraft incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone – actions you characterized as “threaten[ing] regional peace and stability” and “coercive.”¹

You were also in the Senate in 1979 when Congress approved the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which calls for the United States to make sufficient arms available to Taiwan to provide for its own self-defense. That's why we were troubled by news reports indicating that the administration has moved to delay the delivery of key weapons transfers to Taiwan, including Paladin artillery systems and Stinger missiles, both of which are elements of previously approved, multimillion-dollar arms sales.² The failure to follow through with these shipments as scheduled – particularly at a time when Beijing is intentionally ratcheting up cross-strait tensions – sends a dangerous message to our friends in Taipei and other U.S. allies in the region.

As you also know, the TRA also calls for robust U.S. economic cooperation with Taiwan. Yet on this front, too, the White House seems to be sending mixed messages. Last month, for example, during a Senate Finance Committee meeting, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai refused to commit to Taiwan's inclusion in the planned “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.”³ Moreover, the administration does not appear to be moving forward with formal negotiations on a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement.⁴ This intransigence is inconsistent with the TRA's statutory

¹ <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20211028-biden-stresses-rock-solid-us-commitment-to-taiwan-at-east-asia-summit>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/03/taiwan-ukraine-howitzers-paladins-weapons/>

³ <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/202204010011>

⁴ <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/14/pence-taiwan-biden-499666>

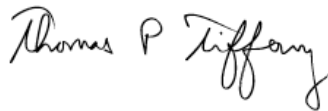
mandate to expand U.S. commercial links with Taiwan. We are also concerned that it may reward – and further encourage – China’s relentless campaign of bullying to isolate Taiwan.

One way to demonstrate what you have described as your “rock-solid” commitment to Taiwan⁵ – and to display your support for the TRA – would be to personally visit Taiwan and meet with President Tsai to discuss ways to deepen our bilateral security and economic partnership.

Current U.S. policy does not require you to ask Beijing for a permission slip to confer with other democratically elected leaders. In fact, The Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135) makes it the policy of the United States to encourage high-ranking U.S. executive branch officials to visit Taiwan and meet with their counterparts.

Consistent with the spirit of that law, we are encouraging you to do just that.

Sincerely,



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



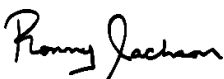
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20211028-biden-stresses-rock-solid-us-commitment-to-taiwan-at-east-asia-summit>